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21 SEP 1965

Dr. William H. Pickering
Director
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, California

Dear Dr. Pickering:

In reviewing my needs for assistance from outstanding individuals who are not full-time members of the U. S. intelligence community, I have determined that it is essential that I form a Space Intelligence Panel reporting to the Director of Central Intelligence. A similar panel has existed for a number of years and made a continuing contribution to our understanding of Soviet strategic weapons systems.

It will be the function of the Space Intelligence Panel periodically to examine all available intelligence data bearing on foreign space programs and to advise me on the significance of such developments. These same results will be made available to the USIB. This counsel will be most helpful in framing our National Intelligence Estimates, for which I bear final responsibility. I would also hope that this panel would examine our collection and analytical resources and advise me as to their adequacy. The panel would normally meet twice a year for several days so as to keep abreast of new developments in foreign space programs. Members will serve for defined, overlapping terms so as to ensure appropriate continuity.

The material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, USC, Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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The status of Soviet plans to land a man on the moon in competition with Apollo is now very much on everyone's mind, and I hope that an early first meeting of the panel will focus on this problem.

Dr. Simon Ramo has accepted my invitation to chair the Space Intelligence Panel. I should like to ask you to serve as a member of this panel for the next three years, so as to make your unique experience in our own space programs available to the national intelligence effort. We hope that you will find it possible to accept this responsibility. My Deputy for Science and Technology, Dr. Albert Wheelon, will contact you and the other members so as to set an early date for this examination.

Sincerely,

(Signed) W. F. Raborn

W. F. Raborn
Director

CONCURRENCE:

[Redacted Signature]

Acting Director for Scientific Intelligence

[Redacted Signature]

Deputy Director for Science and Technology

17 SEP 1965^{25X1}

Date

20 SEP 1965^{25X1}

Date

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